

DUNWOODY POLICE

December 1, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4



ON THE BEAT

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Holiday Shopping Safety

Officer W. Furman

As we enter this holiday season, it is a good time to review some basic safety tips while shopping. Please feel free to share and discuss these tips with family and friends. With our current economy, we have seen a rise in crimes such as theft, strong arm robberies and identification theft. By following a few basic safety tips, and being aware of your surroundings, you can reduce your chance of being a victim and still have an enjoyable time shopping.

➤ ALWAYS BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS!!!

- Always carry your I.D.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry or watches.
- Shop during daylight hours when possible. If you have to shop at night, go with a friend.
- Try not to carry a purse unless necessary. If you must carry a purse, always keep it in your grasp. Never hang it on the back of a chair or leave it in a buggy.
- If you carry a wallet, keep it in a front pocket of your pants or jacket.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay with a debit or credit card when possible. This reduces the cash you have to carry and makes disputing fraudulent charges easier.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

- Be aware of where you park. Park in a lighted area if shopping at night. Look around the parking lot before exiting your car.

- Have your car keys ready before exiting the store. Do not stand at the side of your car searching for keys. This makes you an easy target.
- Hide all of your valuables before parking your car. Everything should be out of sight: GPS's, laptops, cellphones.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages/bags as you leave the store. The more you are carrying, the easier a target you are.
- Be aware of anyone approaching you. This is the season for con artists and strong arm thefts.

SHOPPING WITH CHILDREN

- Always stay with your child!!
- Accompany your children to the restroom, never let them go anywhere alone.
- Never leave your child alone at a theater, arcade or playground while you shop.
- Do not dress them in clothing with their names on them.
- Teach your child what to do if they get separated from you. Teach them what a law enforcement officer and security guard look like.
- There is no substitute for parental supervision while holiday shopping. If you can't adequately supervise your children without being distracted, stay at home or leave them with someone else while you do your shopping.
- For more information on keeping your children safe, check out: www.missingkids.com.

Emergency Preparedness

Officer W. Furman

2009 Flood Stats:

- 8 Deaths
- 9 flood records were broken, which dated as far back as 1919
- Some areas of the state received 20" of rain in 24 hours.
- The Dog River in Douglas County flowed at 448,000 gallons per second.

In September our state was hit with some of the most devastating floods in our history. The City of Dunwoody was lucky in avoiding major damage during these rains. I was affected in the floods by being cut off from all stores for almost 2 days. I was unable to travel further than 1 mile from my home. This made me evaluate my emergency plans. The information I have included in this article is from www.ready.ga.gov, which is an excellent information resource. I think we should all take the time to look over this list and create our own emergency plans.

Make your own Ready kit with the items on the checklist below. Most of the items are inexpensive and easy to find, and any one of them could save your life. Headed to the store? [Download a printable version](#) to take with you. Once you take a look at the basic items, consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for [pets](#), [seniors](#) or family members with [special needs](#). Add those items to your kit and start packing it today.

Or, for a customized emergency plan that will include a detailed checklist with items that are specific to you and your family's needs, as well as a communications plan to help you reconnect after an emergency, [create a user profile](#) now.

Recommended Items

- **Water.** One gallon per person per day, for at least 3 days, for drinking and sanitation
- **Food.** At least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- **Can opener.** For food, if kit contains canned food
- **Radio.** Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, and extra batteries for both
- **Flashlight and extra batteries**
- **First aid kit**
- **Whistle.** To signal for help
- **Face mask.** To help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place
- **Moist towelettes, garbage bags and**

plastic ties. For personal sanitation

- **Wrench or pliers.** To turn off utilities
- **Local maps**

Additional Items

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food, extra water, pet supplies, toys and vaccination forms. More information can be found [here](#)
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies,
- identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from [Ready America](#)
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider adding bedding in cold weather.
- Complete change of clothing. Include a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider adding clothing in cold weather.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, plastic utensils, paper towels
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children
- Paper and pencil



Explorers

Officer W. Furman

The Dunwoody Police Explorers have been extremely active that past few months. Below are some updates on their activities:

Curb Painting: Due to the uncooperative weather, we have only been able to paint 20+ curb numbers. We have added more days during the week to try to catch up. If you have requested your curb number painted, you are still on the list, we are trying to get to everyone.

Fall Festival: The Explorers assisted the Dunwoody Rotary Club with their BBQ tent during the festival. Again, the weather played a factor in the turn out. We want to thank everyone that braved the elements to show up and meet our Explorers.

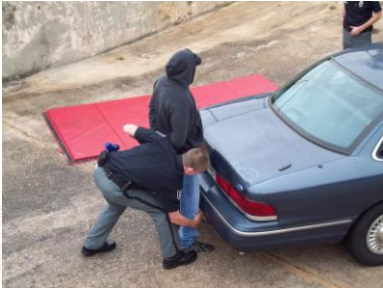
Safety Check: The Explorers assisted the Dunwoody Police and Dekalb Police Departments in a driver safety check that was conducted on the P.I.B. access road. The safety check resulted in 2 D.U.I. arrests, 3 suspended license arrests, 42 unlicensed driver arrests and 16 other citations issued (non arrests). The Explorers assisted in processing vehicles for impounds and completing basic paperwork.

Competition: The Explorers attended their first competition, The Metro Atlanta Championship of Explorers on October 17 in Austell Georgia. The Explorers competed in 6 scenarios, including: burglary in progress, domestic disturbance, unknown trouble call, crime scene processing, unknown risk traffic stop, and high risk warrant service. Having only trained together for less than 3 months, the Explorers did not bring home any trophies, but did remarkably well, finishing in the top 12. I received several comments from judges and role players about the level of professionalism and discipline of our Explorers.

They competed against 14 other teams from around metro Atlanta. The overall 1st and 2nd place went to the Cobb County Explorers, with the Alpharetta Explorers taking home the overall 3rd place.

The next competition is the State Championship which will be held in May 2010. The Explorers will be training hard over the next 7 months for this event.

Explorer Banquet: The Learning for Life Atlanta Council held their 1st Annual Explorer recognition banquet on November 21. Several of the Dunwoody Explorers, along with their parents, were able to attend. I was fortunate enough to be asked to present the Learning for Life Leadership Awards. One of the recipients was our own Dekalb Fire Chief Seth Garcia. Chief Garcia has created one of the largest, and most successful, fire exploring posts in the state. I want to thank all of the Explorers and parents that attended the banquet.



Unknown Risk Traffic Stop



Crime Scene Processing



Briefing before Domestic Dispute



1st Annual Exploring Recognition Banquet

